

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for performing an override function in a point of sale ("POS")
2 terminal, comprising the steps of:
3 receiving a first input from an operator of the POS terminal;
4 determining that the first input from the operator of the POS terminal requires
5 an override procedure before further operation of the POS terminal can proceed;
6 notifying the operator of the POS terminal that the override procedure is
7 required;
8 receiving a second input from a biometrics device coupled to the POS
9 terminal, wherein the second input is produced in response to a biometric reading by
10 the biometrics device of a person;
11 comparing the second input to a list of authorized inputs; and
12 automatically performing the override procedure if the second input matches
13 an authorized input in the list of authorized inputs.
- 1 2. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of:
2 continuing further operation of the POS terminal after the override procedure
3 has been performed.
- 1 3. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the override procedure comprises a
2 series of commands operated within the POS terminal.

1 4. The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the second input matches the
2 authorized input when the person is authorized to commence the override procedure.

1 5. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the biometrics device is remotely
2 coupled to the POS terminal through a computer network coupled to the POS
3 terminal.

1 6. A point of sale ("POS") terminal, comprising:
2 an input device for receiving a first input from an operator of the POS
3 terminal;
4 circuitry for determining that the first input from the operator of the POS
5 terminal requires an override procedure before further operation of the POS terminal
6 can proceed;
7 an output device for notifying the operator of the POS terminal that the
8 override procedure is required;
9 a biometrics device;
10 an input/output adaptor for receiving a second input from the biometrics
11 device, wherein the second input is produced in response to a biometric reading by the
12 biometrics device of a person;
13 circuitry for comparing the second input to a list of authorized inputs; and
14 circuitry for automatically performing the override procedure if the second
15 input matches an authorized input in the list of authorized inputs.

1 7. The POS terminal as recited in claim 6, further comprising:
2 circuitry for continuing further operation of the POS terminal after the
3 override procedure has been performed.

1 8. The POS terminal as recited in claim 6, wherein the override procedure
2 comprises a series of software commands operated withing the POS terminal.

- 1 9. The POS terminal as recited in claim 6, wherein the second input matches the
2 authorized input when the person is authorized to commence the override procedure.

1 10. A method for reconfiguring a point of sale ("POS") terminal, comprising the
2 steps of:

3 replacing an input device coupled to the POS terminal that outputs an
4 authorization signal in response to a manual insertion of a physical key with a
5 biometrics device that outputs the authorization signal in response to a biometric
6 reading of a person; and

7 reprogramming software in the POS terminal to automatically perform a series
8 of override commands upon receipt of the authorization signal from the biometrics
9 device.

1 11. A computer program product operable for performing an override function in
2 a point of sale ("POS") terminal, the computer program product adaptable for storage
3 on a computer storage medium, comprising the program steps of:

4 receiving a first input from an operator of the POS terminal;
5 determining that the first input from the operator of the POS terminal requires
6 an override procedure before further operation of the POS terminal can proceed;
7 notifying the operator of the POS terminal that the override procedure is
8 required;

9 receiving a second input from a biometrics device coupled to the POS
10 terminal, wherein the second input is produced in response to a biometric reading by
11 the biometrics device of a person;

12 comparing the second input to a list of authorized inputs; and
13 automatically performing the override procedure if the second input matches
14 an authorized input in the list of authorized inputs.

1 12. The computer program product as recited in claim 11, further comprising the
2 program step of:

3 continuing further operation of the POS terminal after the override procedure
4 has been performed.

1 13. The computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the override
2 procedure comprises a series of commands operated within the POS terminal.

1 14. The computer program product as recited in claim 13, wherein the second
2 input matches the authorized input when the person is authorized to commence the
3 override procedure.

1 15. The computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the biometrics
2 device is remotely coupled to the POS terminal through a computer network coupled
3 to the POS terminal.